

STANISLAUS COUNTY.

The annual election of Stanislaus County Medical Society was held December the 8th, and the following officers elected for the ensuing year:

President, Dr. F. R. Delappe, Modesto; Vice-President, Dr. W. C. Koebig, Riverbank; Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. E. F. Reamer, Modesto; Censor, three years, Dr. J. A. Young, Oakdale; Delegate to State Association, two years, Dr. P. N. Jacobson, Turlock; Alternate to State Association, two years, Dr. B. F. Surryhne, Modesto.

E. F. REAMER, Secretary.

BOOK REVIEWS

Practical Bacteriology, Blood Work and Animal Parasitology. By E. R. Stitt, A. B., Ph. G., M. D., Medical Director U. S. Navy; Graduate London School of Tropical Medicine; Member National Board of Medical Examiners, etc. Fourth edition, revised and enlarged. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Sons & Co., 1916. Price \$2.00.

The extensive use and favor which this handbook has found well justifies this fourth edition. The new material which the author has added to bring it up to date increases the size of the volume 100 pages and makes it more comprehensive even than the title implies. The practicality of this work is its most pleasing feature. It is interspersed freely with clinical notes and gives diagnostic procedures in detail. The diagrams and pictures are clear and well labeled. Much space is saved and clarity gained by the condensation into keys and tables of the classification and cultural characteristics of pathogenic organisms.

The subject matter concerned with tropical medicine occupies a relatively large portion of the book. Some of the discussions, such as those dealing with the characteristic blood pictures in the various types of anemia and leucemia are clear and thorough. The subject of immunity is not considered at great length, only Ehrlich's theory being given, which perhaps is sufficient in this type of book. The work is unencumbered by consideration of non-pathogenic organisms, which point is well illustrated in the chapter devoted to the fungi.

Part IV, devoted to "Clinical Bacteriology and Animal Parasitology of the Various Body Fluids and Organs," is especially useful as regards methods of obtaining material for examination and the pathogenic forms one may expect to find in such material. An appendix of thirty-eight pages gives the technic of recent, more unusual laboratory procedures as well as those commonly used.

Although containing nearly 500 pages the book is small, being printed on thin paper and bound in cloth.

J. M. R.

Diagnosis and Treatment of Surgical Diseases of the Spinal Cord and Its Membranes. By Charles A. Elsberg, M. D., F. A. C. S., Professor of Clinical Surgery at the New York University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College. Octavo of 330 pages, with 158 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1916. Cloth, \$5.00 net.

Elsberg is the recognized American authority on surgical diseases of the cord; a work from his pen which is, as he says in his preface, "a record of personal experiences in the surgical treatment of

diseases and injuries of the spinal cord and its adnexa," cannot fail to attract attention and interest.

The first chapters deal with the anatomy and physiology of the cord and contain many points of practical surgical import not found in the usual text-books. Among the chapters on surgical diseases we would note especially those on tumor, with discussion of the author's two-stage "extrusion" operation, and on haematomyelia and syringomyelia, for which he advocates surgical intervention in selected cases. The indications for operation (aspiration) do not seem as clear in cases of haematomyelia as in syringomyelia; it seems doubtful whether the clots or products of cord-degeneration could be removed from the long slender areas of haemorrhage and softening characterizing this affection without unwarranted damage to the cord.

On page 122 Elsberg speaks of the use of stovain and cocain in laminectomies under local anaesthesia; cocain might be admissible for local applications to the surface of the cord or nerve-roots; novocain would be preferable for infiltration, and tropacocain for intradural injection; even the latter may prove disastrous if injected into the dura at high levels.

These, however, are small matters of individual opinion; the book as a whole meets every expectation, and will long remain a standard work. It is admirably illustrated and printed. May it reach many editions!

L. E.

The Endemic Diseases of the Southern States.

By William H. Deaderick, M. D., and Loyd Thompson, M. D., of Hot Springs, Arkansas. Octavo volume of 546 pages with 117 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1916. Cloth \$5.00 net; half morocco \$6.50 net.

The endemic diseases considered are malaria, black-water fever, pellagra, aamebic dysentery, hookworm disease, and other intestinal parasites.

While pellagra has as yet been but infrequently found in this state, it will be seen from the other contents that this work is one which may well find a place on the shelves of the California practitioner. The consideration of malaria and hookworm disease is one of vital interest in this state; the survey of the malarial districts of California, together with the extensive studies on hookworm infection in California originally made by Doctor Herbert Gunn and now being prosecuted by the State Board of Health, show that a work devoted exclusively to these and allied infections comes at the right moment.

The volume is beautifully gotten up, well illustrated and, it goes without saying, is up-to-date in every particular.

G. M. C.

Pharmacology and Therapeutics for Students and Practitioners of Medicine. By H. C. Wood, Jr. Second edition. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia and London. 1916.

This treatise on pharmacology and therapeutics is written in a clear style, but is not exhaustive enough to answer the full needs of students of pharmacology. It does not compare in usefulness with the new edition of Cushny's Pharmacology. The book will be of more value as an adjunct to detailed lectures on these subjects than as a complete text book.

A. C. C.